

March 14, 2012

Senator John Fonfara
Representative Vickie Nardello
Co-Chairs, Energy and Technology Committee
Room 3900, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: PACE provisions in Senate Bill 415

Dear Senator Fonfara and Representative Nardello:

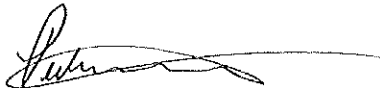
The New England Clean Energy Council (NECEC) supports the proposal in Senate Bill 415 to authorize municipalities to establish a PACE or "property assessed clean energy" program. NECEC's mission is to accelerate New England's clean energy economy to global leadership by building an active community of stakeholders and a world-class cluster of clean energy companies, which will bring energy, economic and environmental benefits to the citizens, businesses and industry of New England. The Council represents close to 400 member and affiliate member organizations across New England, including clean energy companies, venture investors, major financial institutions, universities, industry associations, utilities, labor and large commercial end-users.

While not every municipality will have the capabilities or interest to set up a PACE program, those that do will provide an additional and valuable resource for commercial and industrial facilities to upgrade their energy efficiency and lower their energy costs. This resource will augment existing energy efficiency and clean energy programs. It will also help to lower the barrier to participation for many commercial and industrial facilities that lack the up front capital needed for these investments. In addition, a PACE program allows facility owners to align financing with rental leases that often provide for proportional tax payment flow through and thus can reduce the 'split incentive' barrier where owners and renters have a conflicting incentive to invest in energy savings improvements.

We would like to recognize the many energy efficiency companies that are located in Connecticut and are members of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Council (NEEC) and have been providing commercial and industrial energy efficiency services as part of the long-standing and successful energy efficiency programs operated by Connecticut Light and Power and United Illuminating. In addition to the energy savings provided to customers, a PACE program will spur added investment and expansion of this sector of the clean energy industry that is located in Connecticut, serving Connecticut buildings.

Again, NECEC supports the PACE provisions of Senate Bill 415.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Rothstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Rothstein, President